

Adult Education Advisory Committee
January 12, 2005
Utah State Office of Education
Room 241
10:10 A.M. – 1:10 P.M.

Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Members: James Andersen (chair), Kim Dohrer (past chair), Paula Oakey (chair elect), Suzette Hudson, Cindy Krueger, Edie Mitko, Wayne Mifflin, Norman Nakamura, Herb Clark, Mary Ann Parkinson, Dave Steele, Shauna South, Jeff Galli, and Gail Burningham (secretary). Others: Andrea Worthen for Don Carpenter, David Frost and Pam Silberman.

EXCUSED: Sandra Grant, Hector Mendiola and Edwin Espinel.

Welcome and Introductions

The Adult Education Advisory meeting was held January 12, 2005 at the Utah State Office of Education in room 241. James Andersen welcomed everyone. Andrea Worthen was introduced as the person who will fill in for Don Carpenter who retired from the Board of Regents. Everyone introduced him/herself and stated the group they represent.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the December 8, 2004 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve December's minutes, after corrections are made, was made by Edie Mitko. Wayne Mifflin seconded the motion and the minutes with corrections were approved. Correction to the minutes were the names of John Swenson and Clayton Long and the word "all" was changed to "significantly more" under the paragraph about Don's retirement.

Utah Issues - Pam Silberman

Pam explained what Utah Issues is about. She said that they work on low-income issues. The core set of values for their work has to do with housing, welfare, taxes, and budgets. They are concerned with long-term poverty issues, tuition tax credits, child-care issues and federal cuts that put a greater burden on state funds. Because of the funding cuts in adult education last year and the impact of this on those with low incomes, this could become an issue of interest to them. They work with the appropriations committee and sponsor a Citizens Day with the legislature. Flyers and some training is provided at this event. They have information tables and fact sheets to keep the public informed. Utah Issues information is reliable and they have credibility within the state. Utah Issues will take a look at how UBSCT will affect low-income populations.

Lunch

Sub-Committee meetings and reports

The sub-committees, Advocacy and Public Relations each met in separate rooms to discuss their tasks / goals for the year. Reports from the discussion groups were given.

James Andersen reported the Advocacy group's goals/tasks. He discussed the "Day at the Legislature" on February 24th. There will be GED pictures, PowerPoint presentations, and large posters for that event. Dave Steele will make the application with the Capitol for the event.

Edie, Mary Ann, Herb, Norman and James will solicit letters of support for adult education funding from business and industry and community-based organizations. We will focus on the executive appropriations committee and identify students that are their constituents. We will raise the awareness of the students as to what the issues are and have them make contact with appropriations committee education committee members. We will also identify businesses that are located in those areas to obtain letters of support. Large state-wide businesses will also be solicited for support.

This committee will work directly with legislators in the house and senate who are in support of restoring the adult education money. Kim, Dave, James, Wayne and Cindy will identify students who can be spokespersons from local school districts; we will provide training for them on the issues. We will get copies of last years Deseret News and Tribune editorials supporting funding for adult education. We will begin working on letters to the editor, and presentations to the editorial boards of the Desert News and Tribune. We will encourage local school districts to speak to the editorial boards in their communities. We are going to make a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club. It was also suggested that we make a presentation to the Community Action Program Board and the Utah Issues Board.

The *Public Relations* Committee's information was reported by Kim Dohrer. Since the Advocacy group is advocating for adult education and programs as a whole, the Public Relations committee's decided their job is to advocate for students. We have already collected data and brochures and we decided that most of the data didn't really give us new information, but is information we already intuitively knew. We reviewed what was on the PowerPoint and came up with a couple of key points. We're serving about 5 % of those that don't have diplomas, that means that about 95% of those that don't have a diploma are not being served. If we doubled the numbers from 5% to 10%, and went from 30 thousand to 60 thousand could we even do it? At the end we decided what we really wanted to know was from students and in order to find out this information we talked about doing a very small sample from about four or five programs. We will have these programs survey some of their students to find out: 1) what keeps them coming to their program, 2) what motivated them come in the first place and 3) what kept them from coming in the past. Is there a value across the board from San Juan to Logan amongst the student that aren't coming that would motivate them to come? Is there something that we could offer them that would motivate them to attend adult education classes? Education may be a motivation for us but it may not be to them. We have to find on an individual basis what it is that, that person values and then attempt to offer it. We did decide that one thing that would get them there was motivation. We decided that we would start with the people that were attending and find out from them. We had a great discussion about our values verses their values and what right do we have to impose our values on them. We can offer, educate and inform and that is our next step. We will probably take until March to accomplish our survey.

Other Business

Jim said he could not encourage us enough to get people to write letters to the editor of newspapers and to use the PowerPoint so that all of our messages are the same; focus on the identified issues. If you bring up additional issues it creates confusion. If we could get the fact sheet from Utah Issues (Pam Silberman), we can use it in presentations. Wayne Mifflin did an analysis of data and figured out that of all the adults in Utah (1,500,000) there are about 13% of Utah's adult population that do not have a high school diploma. This number will increase with

UBSCT implementation.

Agenda Items for February Meeting

- Final plans for “Day on the Hill”
- The Committee hopes to invite and meet with another group of directors appointed by incoming Governor Huntsman.

Adjourn

Jim Andersen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Dohrer moved to adjourn the meeting and Edie Mitko seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. The next meeting will be held February 9, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in room 241.